Technical Assistance to Government of Gujarat for undertaking studies in the following areas:

(i) Gujarat Public Sector Resource Management.

(ii) Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation.

(iii) Gujarat State Power Sector.

For the present, a proposal for a possible loan assistance from the ADB for 'Gujarat Public Sector Resource Management Programme' is under process. The details, including the loan amount will be known after the negotiations are finalised and the agreements are signed.

Introduction of direct flight from Bhubaneshwar to Mumbai

1623. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has been repeatedly asking for introduction of direct flight from Bhubaneshwar to Mumbai to improve trade and commerce in the State;

(b) whether such a service has been introduced in the past; and

(c) by when this service would be re-introduced in the interest of the State and its people?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to crew constraint, Indian Airlines has at present, no plans to re-introduce services on the sector Bhubaneshwar-Mumbai. Private operators are, however, encouraged to add more stations in their network.

Private and Foreign Countries Entering into Insurance Sector

1624. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under duress of international financial institutions Government are allowing private and foreign companies to enter the insurance sector in the country as reported in the Indian Express dated 6th July, 1996;

(b) whether this decision will lead to rampant corruption, frauds, embezzlement and draining of funds out of the country as alleged by General Insurance Companies/Life Insurance Corporation Unions who are likely to launch countrywide stir; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider its decision and consult Unions of GIC/LIC to avoid confrontation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the Government envisages restructuring of the insurance industry in the light of the experience gained in the working of the banking sector, and strengthening of public sector insurance companies i.e. LIC and GIC.

Reasons of Boom/Down in Share Market

1625. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons of boom/down of the prices in share market;

(b) whether excessive forward trading amounting to almost gambling is one of the main causes;

(c) if so, the mechanism to check this excessive boom/down so that the interest of small share holders is protected;